

Berrigan Defense Accuses FBI Informer of Lying

By Betty Medsger

Washington Post Staff Writer

HARRISBURG, Pa., March 29—Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark in a final blast at Boyd F. Douglas Jr., the government's chief witness against seven antiwar activists, told the jury that the ex-convict has "lied to you more times than you and I will ever know."

Then Clark said to the nine women and three men, "If you believe him you will go to your last day wondering if you are the last of a long, long line of people he has taken in."

Clark was the last of five defense attorneys to give summations in the case, Chief prosecutor William S. Lynch, in rebuttal, asserted that Douglas' testimony plus letters he smuggled on behalf of two defendants, the Rev. Philip Berrigan and Sister Elizabeth McAlister, were adequate proof of a conspiracy.

Father Berrigan, Sister McAlister and five others are charged with conspiracy to kidnap presidential adviser Henry A. Kissinger, to bomb tunnels under federal buildings in Washington and to raid federal offices.

Douglas, who was described by an FBI agent in a Sept. 1, 1970, memorandum to FBI

destroying Selective Service records.

Defense attorneys argued that the letters exchanged by the priest and nun do not show an agreement to commit any criminal act and that Douglas' testimony is not believable.

"These are the letters of two people who cared, and care, very much for each other," said Ramsey Clark, pointing out that Father Berrigan's discussion in the letters of actions against the Vietnam war are couched in very tentative terms.

Sister Elizabeth, he said, was trying to bolster Father Berrigan's spirit, trying to impart "strength" to someone beginning a six-year prison term.

"And how could he lead any plot from prison?" asked Clark. "He could not conspire. He could suffer through Cambodia and Kent State. He could be tortured and wonder what would happen if the peace movement caved in."

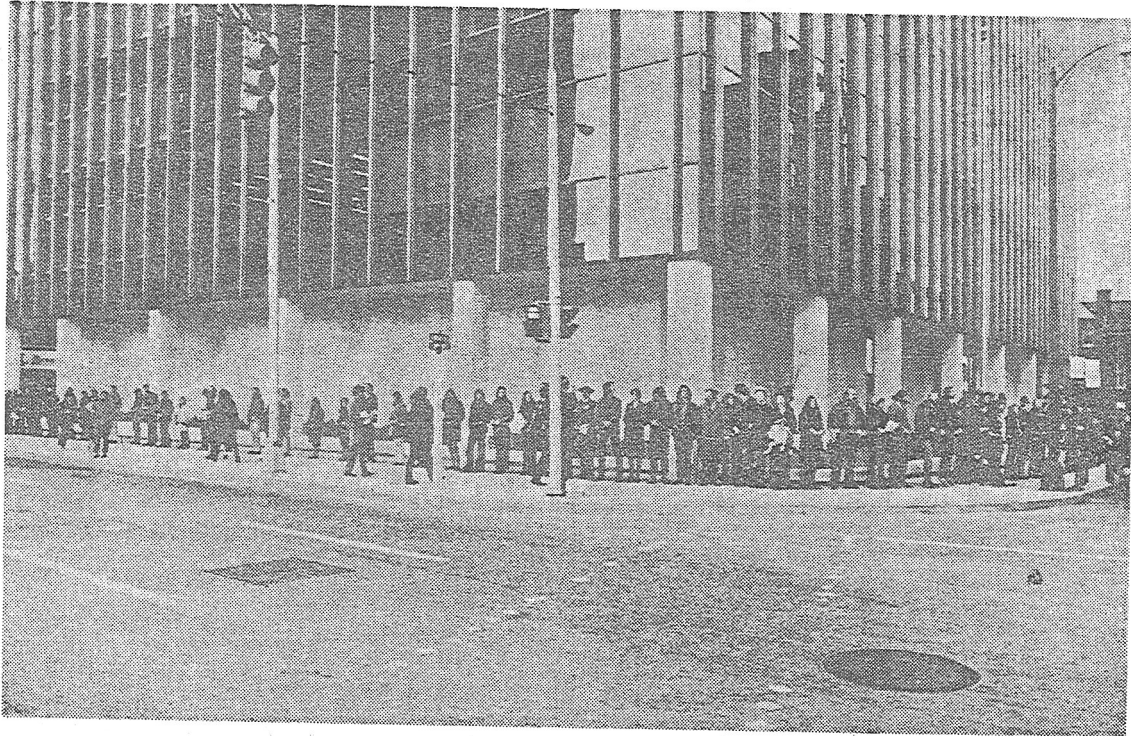
As for whether the priest controlled the numerous persons who raided draft boards in 1970, Clark said the priest could not have exerted such control if he were outside prison, let alone from the inside.

But chief prosecutor Lynch

experienced group of burglars." He portrayed Sister Elizabeth as "not just a vague lady who teaches art at some college in Tarrytown."

Defense attorney Terry

Lenzner argued before the jury that Douglas, in offering to smuggle letters the first day he met Father Berrigan, "had larceny in his heart right from the beginning."



Associated Press

Antiwar protesters form a chain of demonstrators around three-fourths of the federal building in Harrisburg, Pa.

where the Rev. Philip Berrigan and six other antiwar activists are in final stages of a trial on conspiracy charges.